

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
April 5, 1988

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. Seventy-seven faculty were present. The minutes of the previous faculty meeting held on March 1, 1988 were approved without change.

Dean Lutzer called on Mr. Dessler and the Nominations and Elections committee to distribute ballots for the election so votes could be counted as the meeting proceeded. The results, announced later in the meeting were as follows:

Degrees Committee:

Satoshi Ito, Sociology

Retention, Promotion, Tenure Committee:

Ed Crapol, History

Will Hausman, Economics

Board on Faculty Compensation:

Carl Moody, Economics

Cynthia Hull, Psychology

Board on Student Affairs:

Francie Cate-Arries, Modern Languages

David Jenkins, English

Kathleen Kulick, Modern Languages

John Nezlek, Psychology

Carl Vermeulen, Biology

Procedural Review Committee: (Two year terms)

Dale Hoak, Sociology

Margo Schaefer, Mathematics

(One-year alternate) Roy Champion, Physics

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Lutzer made the following announcements:

1. He recently mailed an announcement to faculty describing changes in the advising system. These grew out of the deliberations of a faculty committee and were the basis for a FFE proposal. The advising system proposal was approved in principle by the EPC. Mr. Lutzer then called upon Mr. Finn to offer a brief overview of the new system. Mr. Finn went over the following basic recommendations:

--Introduce a voluntary system of selection for 60-70 advisors.

--Institute a system of recognition and reward including use of professional development funds and including advising as a component in merit evaluation.

--Establish better information about advisees and a strong communication network.

--Advisee load would be about 20 incoming students, they would establish early contact with advisor, i.e., May 15th or before, Freshman would be required to have advisor signature.

--Appoint an experienced faculty advisor as director of the program with full responsibility for the program under the Dean's office. This would include adequate office space and clerical help.

Mr. Luzter noted that in his memo he had asked for volunteers for this new program or for the position of director. Those interested are to write by April 15th. A general informational meeting about the duties of advisors will be held on April 12 at 4 p.m. in Rogers 100.

2. This has been a good year for curricular development grants--first the Ford Foundation Grant and more recently Physics and Geology have each received NSF grants under the "Research for Undergraduates" program (there are typically about ten of these awarded nationally in Physics and five in Geology). We also have word that the Korea Foundation has awarded us a curriculum development grant for our Far East program and the Japan Foundation has informally notified us of their support of a position in Japanese language. We are still awaiting word on our FFE proposals.

3. Upon the advice of the Chairs and FAC, and with approval of the Provost, contracts will not go out until the end of May. More time is needed to consider the results of the gender equity study. Thanks are expressed to the ad hoc committee which did this statistical salary study: Professors Kreps, Archibald, Null, Themo, and Finifer.

4. The Faculty Assembly proposal will likely be voted on in an emergency A&S meeting in April. The faculty will be given at least a week's notice.

Jeff Kelly from the Student Association called the attention of the faculty to the new student produced course guidebook that is out and urged wider faculty participation for future reports.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Vice-Provost for Computing and Telecommunications, Mr. Robeson

Mr. Robeson offered a general report on progress and plans regarding immediate and long-range computer and telecommunications additions at the college. A new IBM 4381 Mainframe is being purchased, which would free up the NAS for academic computing. He went over various advances planned for library related computing, software, and additional terminals. Bids are being taken for the installation of an integrated voice and data network for campus, this could go in as soon as the summer of 1989. We have a goal of making microcomputers available for all faculty to want them over the next 18 months. This will include full support--maintenance, hardware, software et al.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Faculty Affairs, Ms. Ventis

FAC has continued to discuss issues of governance related to the Faculty Assembly proposal, especially the matter of the Executive Committee and its links, representation, and jurisdiction. Final input should be turned in to the appropriate committees. The final proposal is to be out next week.

Faculty Research, Mr. Hausman

Mr. Hausman called the attention of the faculty to the annual report from his committee and made available the revised policy materials for various research grants. He noted that the \$10,000 to support book production should be understood as a supplement and not as leverage with publishers.

Educational Policy, Mr. Meyers

Mr. Meyers reported that his committee was investigating the problem of target enrollments and registration procedures to try and address the issues of over-crowding and disenrollment which we have faced the past few semesters. Many factors have to be considered, including our overall position count, so there is no quick and easy solution.

The EPC recommendation regarding an expansion of the present grading system to include plus-minus designations, which had been distributed last meeting but not discussed for lack of time, was then introduced. The committee moved that the following substitution of wording be adopted:

Completed academic work is graded A+, A, A-, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, D- or F, unless it is taken on a Pass/Fail basis. Within letter designations, these grades have the following broad meanings: A--excellent, B--good, C--satisfactory, D--minimal pass, F--failure. For each semester credit in a course in which a student is graded A+ or A, he or she receives 4 quality points; A-, 3.7; B+, 3.3; B, 3.0; B-, 2.7; C+, 2.3; C, 2.0; C-, 1.7; D+, 1.3; D, 1.0; D-, .7; F carries no credit and no quality points. Courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis and work in required Physical Education are graded P (pass) and F (failure).

A rather lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Grant of the EPC committee explained that other schools were studied and generally the system proposed was that used by UVA and several others. The committee felt this change would help bring us into line with other schools and allow a more accurate assessment.

Several faculty stated their opposition or reservations regarding the change--that moving from 4 to 12 levels was excessive, that even more borderline problems would result, that it would be virtually impossible to get a 4.0 GPA when William and Mary was already quite competitive with regard to grading, that a B- would tend to be seen as a C, etc., that it would further emphasize grades over learning--encouraging our students to focus on 10ths of points, and that such a system would adversely affect the academic status of those trying to meet the 2.0 graduation requirement.

Those supporting the motion argued that we already break our grading down into finer divisions than A, B, C, D anyway, so why not reflect that in the final grade, that this would help communicate our grades to employers and other schools more accurately, that it would help, not hurt, borderline decisions in favor of real accuracy, e.g., someone with a 79% average getting the same grade as someone with a 70%, etc.

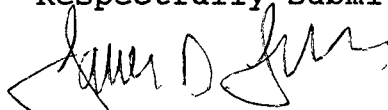
Mr. Kelly of the SA reported that the students generally opposed the adoption of this new system feeling it would hurt them more than help them in a system which was already highly competitive.

Mr. Ward introduced an amendment to the motion that the A+ grade be dropped. He argued that each mark should have a different numerical equivalent. This motion was seconded and passed.

A vote was taken on the amended proposal (just as above but with the grade A+ dropped) motion and it passed.

Mr. Lutzer called for adjournment and the meeting closed at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James D. Tabor
Secretary to the Faculty